

Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. Equal Remuneration Act, 1973 provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of similar nature without any discrimination. Workers also get benefits under various social welfare legislation like Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, Employees Compensation Act, 1923, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and Building and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996. The coverage of establishments under The Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF&MP) Act has been enlarged to include construction workers.

Appointment of presiding officer at CGIT-cum-labour court at Dhanbad

†344. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether hearings on cases pertaining to labourers have stopped completely in Central Government Industrial Tribunal! cum- Labour Court (CGIT-cum-LC), Dhanbad as there is no presiding officer in above court since October, 2015;

(b) by when Government would appoint a presiding officer there; and

(c) by when Government proposes to set up a separate CGIT-cum-LC in Bihar, as even after 15 years of bifurcation of the State, labourers of organised and unorganised sector in Bihar who fall under purview of Centre have to face great difficulties in travelling to Dhanbad in Jharkhand for being present for hearings in labour court, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) There are two Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts (CGIT-cum-LCs) at Dhanbad viz. CGIT-cum-LC, Dhanbad-I and CGIT-cum-LC, Dhanbad-III. Presiding Officer of CGIT-cum-LC, Dhanbad-I has been given the additional charge of the vacant post of Presiding Officer, CGIT-cum-LC, Dhanbad-II, till regular Presiding Officer is appointed. The Search-cum-Selection Committee has already recommended a panel of Judicial officers for appointment to the post of Presiding Officer, CGIT-cum-LC, Dhanbad-II for the approval of the competent authority.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry at present.

Model law for labour for opening malls and shops 24x7

345. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make a model law for the labour to keep open malls and shopping areas 24x7;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the law thereof; and

(c) what is the justification of Government to change the law to make labour class working in night shifts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The Government have framed the Model Shops and Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2016 and it has been circulated to all States for adopting the same as it is or modifying their existing State Shops and Establishment Act as per their requirement. The Model Bill will cover only establishments employing ten or more workers except manufacturing units.

The main provisions of the Model Bill *inter-alia*, include freedom to operate 365 days in a year and opening/closing time of establishment. Provision for women to be permitted during night shift if the provisions of shelter, rest room ladies toilet, adequate protection of their dignity and transportation etc. exists. No discrimination against women in the matter of recruitment, training, transfer or promotions. Online one common registration through a simplified procedure, powers of Government to make rules regarding adequate measures to be taken by the employer for the safety and health of workers, provision of clean and safe drinking water, lavatory, first aid etc. and creche and canteen; by group of establishments, in case, it is not possible due to constraint in space or otherwise by individual establishment, five paid festive holidays in addition to national holidays etc.

(c) The enhancement of working hours in shops and establishments 24x7 with adequate provision for protection of the workers will give rise to requirement for additional manpower which will result in additional employment and also leading to further growth in Jobs especially in the; retail, IT, hospitality and services sector.

Construction of ultra modern ESI Hospital in Gujarat

†346. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to construct ultra modern hospitals throughout the country for workers;

(b) if so, whether Government will consider to construct such hospitals in Gujarat also; and

(c) the number of such hospitals, location-wise details thereof and the time by which they are likely to be constructed and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.